

CLAIMS

1. A printing apparatus comprising a printing device for printing on print media and a laminating device for laminating at least part of said print media in an integrated operation, such that in normal operation the print media extends between the printing device and the laminating device, wherein said printing device comprises means for printing at least one plot on said media while it advances in a first media advance direction, and said laminating device comprises means for laminating at least one printed plot in a second advance direction of said print media which is opposite to said first advance direction.

2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said laminating device comprises means for selectively inactivating lamination when print media travels therethrough.

3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, comprising a first media supporting roller arranged upstream of the printing device in said first media advance direction and first roller driving means for taking up media on said first media supporting roller, said first roller driving means being releasable such as to allow media to be fed from said first media supporting roller.

4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said first media supporting roller is a media feed roller of said printing device.

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5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, comprising a second media supporting roller arranged downstream of the laminating device in said first media advance direction and second roller driving means for taking up media on said second media supporting roller, said second roller driving means being releasable such as to allow media to be fed from said second media

supporting roller.

6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said second media supporting roller comprises braking means for tensioning the media being fed 5 from said second media supporting roller.

7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said second media supporting roller is associated to said laminating device.

10 8. A printing device comprising a feed roller for feeding a print media, driving means for drawing print media from said feed roller in a first media advance direction, and roller driving means for rewinding and taking up media on said feed roller in a second media advance direction which is opposite to said first advance direction.

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9. A laminating device comprising a media path, a laminating nip arranged along said media path for laminating a media, a pair of drive rollers arranged in said media path for driving the media being laminated, and a motorised media supporting roller arranged at one end of said media path for 20 holding media, wherein said laminating nip is arranged along said media path between said pair of drive rollers and said motorised media supporting roller.

10. A method for printing and laminating at least part of a print media in an integrated operation, such that in normal operation the print 25 media extends between a printing device and a laminating device, wherein printing of at least one plot is performed in a first advance direction of said print media and subsequent laminating of at least one printed plot is performed in a second advance direction of said print media, which is opposite to said first advance direction.

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11. A method as claimed in claim 10, comprising the steps of:

- advancing print media through said printing device in said first advance direction while printing at least one plot on said print media;
- further advancing the print media in said first advance direction 5 until said at least one plot travels past said laminating device, while maintaining said laminating device inactive; and
- reversing the media advance direction and rewind the media towards the printing device in said second advance direction opposite to said first advance direction, while laminating at least one printed plot in said 10 laminating device.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, comprising the further step of advancing the print media in said first advance direction at least until all the laminated media has travelled past the printing device, while 15 maintaining the laminating device inactive.

13. A method for printing and laminating at least part of a print media, comprising the steps of:

- advancing print media through a printing device in a first 20 advance direction, and printing at least one plot on said print media;
- advancing the print media leaving the printer through a laminating device in said first advance direction, until said at least one plot travels past the laminating device, while maintaining said laminating device inactive;
- 25 - reversing the media advance direction and rewind the media towards the printing device in a second advance direction opposite to said first advance direction, while laminating at least one printed plot in said laminating device; and
- reversing again the media advance direction to advance 30 laminated media in said first advance direction through the printing and

laminating devices until all the laminated media has travelled past the printing device, while maintaining the laminating device inactive.

14. A method for printing and laminating at least part of a web of
5 print media, comprising the steps of:

- advancing the web of print media through a printing device and a laminating device in a first advance direction, while printing on said print media and maintaining said laminating device inactive, until substantially all the web has travelled past the laminating device;
- 10 - reversing the media advance direction and rewind the web of media towards the printing device in a second advance direction opposite to said first advance direction, while laminating at least part of said web of media in said laminating device, until substantially all the web of media has travelled back past the printing device.